



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1400

October 5, 2006

Editor  
*Newsweek*  
251 W. 57th St.  
New York, NY 10019

To the Editor:

Your October 2 issue includes an article on Afghanistan titled "The Rise of Jihadistan." Attached please find our response. In some instances, the authors assert opinions as facts. In other instances, there is a lack of full context regarding Afghanistan, which has for decades been a violent, war-torn country.

As our response is quite lengthy, we are not submitting a letter to the editor. Instead, we would ask for the opportunity to submit a stand-alone column that not only rebuts some of the more sensational charges, but offers your readers a clearer view of the very real challenges we face in Afghanistan -- as well as the many achievements of the past five years.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dorrance Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Dorrance Smith  
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public  
Affairs

Attachments: Response to "The Rise of Jihadistan"  
"The Rise of Jihadistan"